

From: Jamie Woodlief [jamie.woodlief@ncpublicschools.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 12:01 PM
To: More at Four Contract Administrators; More at Four Program Contacts
Cc: 'Susan Blackard'; 'kc elander'; 'Stephen Jackson'; 'john pruette'; jody.Koon@ncpublicschools.gov; 'cindy bagwell'; 'dan tetreault'; 'Catherine Woodall'; 'Sheila Bazemore'; 'Mia Sherard'; 'malinda rathbone'; 'janet mcginnis'; 'Anne-Marie deKort-Young'; 'kristen guillory'; Ellen Peisner-Feinberg; Jennifer Schaaf; kkconsulting@nc.rr.com
Subject: Evaluation Effort

In recent weeks, your office was contacted by researchers from the Frank Porter Graham Institute, UNC-Chapel Hill who inquired about your enrollment procedures.

The Frank Porter Graham Institute has been conducting evaluations of More at Four since 2003. The Office of Early Learning and FPG are currently exploring a randomized assignment, longitudinal evaluation of More at Four graduate's academic performance in elementary and middle school. Such a design is superior to quasi-experimental designs, which provide valuable insights and estimates of the positive effects of More at Four but with less precision.

The Office of Early Learning is required by law to conduct a longitudinal evaluation of More at Four student graduate academic performance through grade six. We regard longitudinal evaluation to be integral to the development and improvement of pre-kindergarten in North Carolina. The first longer-term longitudinal evaluation of More at Four generated profound results. It shows that More at Four attendance significantly boosts a child's reading and math test performance four years later in third grade.

We look forward to more results like these from the new experimental design evaluation.

The experimental design means a lottery or series of lotteries will be used in all instances to select students from a pool or pools of eligible children for enrollment in More at Four in 2011-12. This is a different selection and enrollment methodology to ones currently used.

We therefore ask no representations, indications or promises be made by contractors or service providers as to a child's enrollment for the 2011-12 year until full instructions as to how 2011-12 enrollment will proceed are issued to you by the Office of Early Learning. This will occur once the 2011-13 budget is passed by the General Assembly and is signed into law by the Governor.

I thank you for your cooperation and participation in this important evaluation effort.

Stephen Jackson, Ph. D
Policy and Research Consultant

Office of Early Learning
Department of Public Instruction

2075 Mail Service Center

Raleigh NC, 27699-2075

stephen.jackson@ncpublicschools.gov

919 981-5268